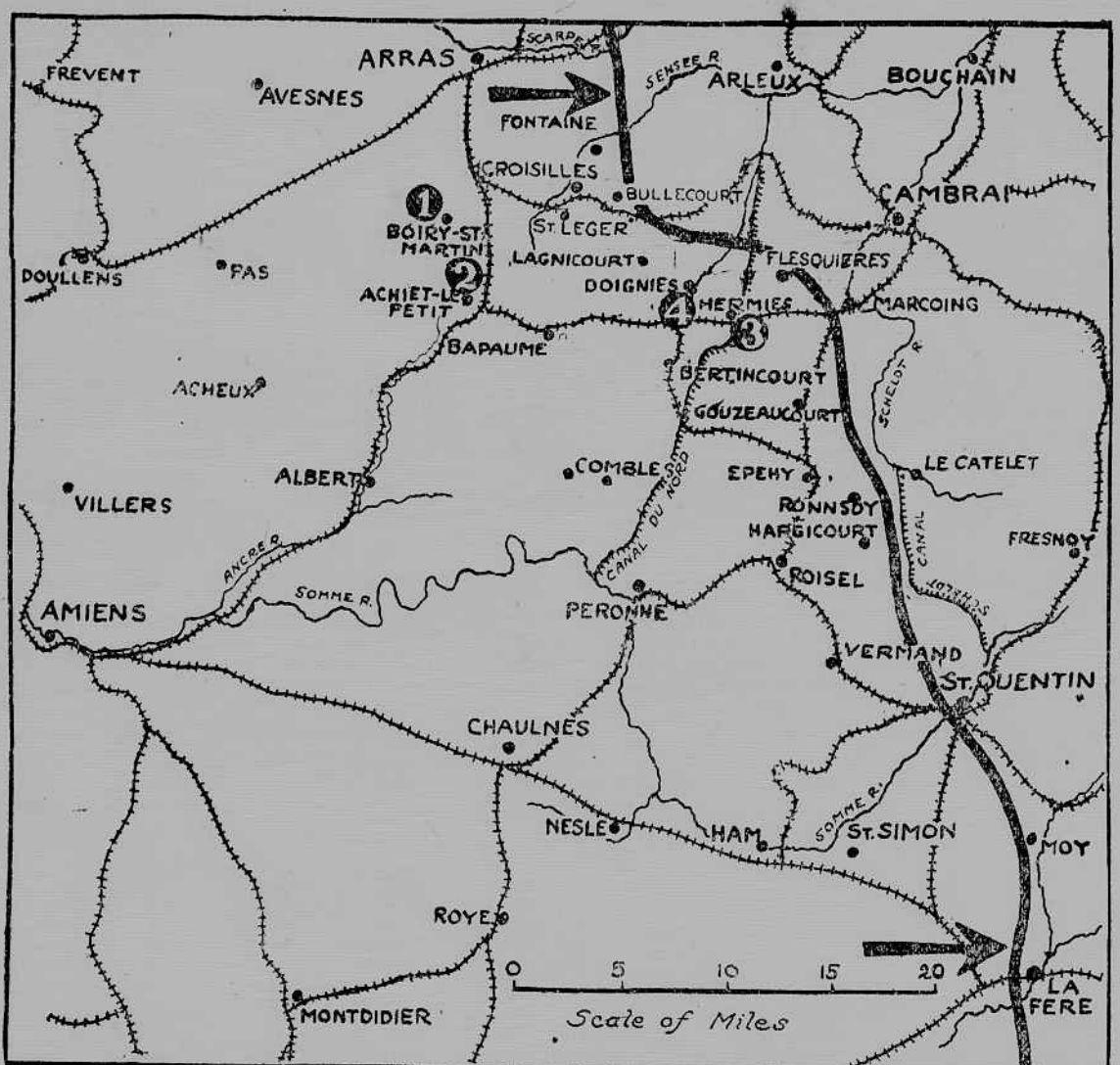


The Great War 1331st Day

Where the Greatest Struggle of the War Is Raging



town like Verdun or dominating position like Vimy or Passchendaele as their objective, the Germans chose an extremely wide sector and tried to smother all the advanced defenses by a hurricane of high explosives and tons of gas shells.

Whether the first thrust was intended as the main effort or merely as a diversion to hide the real push in another sector it is too early to say.

Unlike other drives, the German contained no minor element of surprise, such as an overwhelming aerial attack, the explosion of a battery of mines or the uncovering of some weapon like the tank.

It was merely an unprecedented struggle between the German and British artillery and infantry, really a titanic death grapple in which the defenders exacted a heavy toll for the little territory they relinquished.

The German militarists resorted to their early tactics, the only difference being in the numbers and weight of artillery at their disposal. The enemy repeated the operation by which he recovered in December the ground he had lost at Cambrai, but failed to obtain results commensurate with the effort.

The Germans are using gas shells constantly. They are of a new type. Britons await patiently the details of the colossal struggle. The country is in a serious but confident mood. It knows how great are the issues involved and how heavy a price it must pay, win or lose.

All petty differences disappeared to-day and the whole moral and material support of the nation is behind Haig's gallant army. Nothing else counts.

German Claim of 16,000 Prisoners Not Admitted by British

LONDON, March 22.—The news coming from correspondents at the front to-day that forty German divisions were engaged in the fighting on the Somme and that the great concentration of artillery in the world's history was operating gave the British public a clear idea of the tremendous struggle on the Western front.

But nothing in the dispatches, either from Field Marshal Haig or from the newspaper correspondents, had prepared them for the German claim, which reached London late to-night, of the capture of 16,000 prisoners and 200 guns as the result of the first day's fighting in the new German offensive, and the disposition at the moment is to regard the claim as an exaggeration.

According to the correspondents, the British withdrawals, which were necessary, were carried out in good order from advanced positions which, in the nature of the fighting of these days, it had been expected would be held.

There are generally believed to have been lightly held.

It had been intimated that the Germans would claim the capture of several villages, but the dispatches gave no hint of this. The British are now in a position to make a counter-attack, and it was inadvisable to indicate the present British line, because this would be giving information to the enemy.

The dispatches emphasize the heavy cost to the Germans of the first day's struggle, and depict the ground from which the British have withdrawn as being littered with German dead.

The text of the German night official statement, as received here by wireless, follows:

"The successes of yesterday in the fighting between Arras and La Fere were extended in the continuation of our attack."

"Sixteen thousand prisoners and 200 guns so far have been reported captured before Verdun the artillery duel continued."

The earlier Berlin official statement said the British first line had been captured by German troops from the southeast of Arras as far as La Fere.

The text of the statement read: "In the southern sector of the front, the British attacked the British positions. After powerful fire by our artillery and mine throwers our infantry stormed in broad sectors and everywhere captured the first enemy line."

"Between La Fere and Soissons, on both sides of Rheims and in the Champagne the firing duel increased in intensity. Storming attacks were brought in prisoners in many sectors."

"Ostend has been bombarded from the sea."

"In Belgian and French Flanders the heavy fighting continued. Records of no other detachments penetrated on many occasions into the enemy lines."

"Our artillery continued the destruction of enemy infantry positions and batteries before Verdun. On the Lorraine front, also, the artillery activity increased on many occasions."

The British Report

The great battle on the Western front continued until late last night, the first British War Office report to-day stated. The British are holding the enemy.

"Fighting continued until a late hour last night on the whole front from the River Oise and the River Senne. Our troops continued to hold the enemy in their battle positions."

"During the enemy's attacks yesterday his massed infantry offered remarkable resistance to our rifles, machine guns and artillery which were full of ammunition. The enemy's attacks were taken by our troops. All the reports testify to the exceedingly heavy losses suffered by the enemy."

"No serious attack has yet developed this morning, but heavy fighting is still to be expected."

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The heavy line shows roughly the battle front before the Germans began their long-heralded offensive. The Berlin official report yesterday claimed the capture of the whole British front line between the two arrows on the map (from southeast of Arras to the vicinity of La Fere).

The documents on captured officers show the Germans expected by yesterday to be in Boiry-St. Martin, indicated by (1) on the map; Achiet-le-Petit (2) and Hemmes (3). Instead they are only a short distance beyond the old British front line. The British made a victorious counter attack, using tanks, at Doignies (4), which town they still hold.

squadrons in the southern area of the front were unable to leave the ground owing to the mist. In the northern area, where the weather was clear, our airplanes dropped 325 tons of bombs on the docks at Bruges and 325 tons of bombs on rest billets northwest of Tournai. All of our machines returned.

A supplementary statement issued to-night by Field Marshal Haig says: "Our losses inevitably have been considerable, but they have not been out of proportion to the magnitude of the battle."

"From reports received from all parts of the battle front, the enemy's losses continue to be very heavy, and his advance everywhere has been made at great sacrifice."

"Our troops are fighting with the greatest gallantry. When all ranks and all units of every arm behave so well it is difficult at this stage of the battle to distinguish instances."

"Exceptional gallantry was shown, however, by the troops of the 24th Division in a protracted defence at Levercourt, and by the Third Division, who maintained our positions in the neighborhood of Croisilles and to the north of that village against repeated attacks."

"A very gallant fight was made by the 51st Division in the neighborhood of the Bapaume-Cambrai road against repeated attacks."

"Identification obtained in the course of the battle shows that the enemy's opening attack was delivered by some forty divisions, supported by great masses of German artillery, reinforced by Austrian batteries. Many other German divisions have since taken part in the fighting and others are arriving in the battle area."

"Further fighting of a most severe nature is anticipated."

pele, and south of Moronvilliers, in the Champagne.

The earlier statement to-day said the Germans suffered considerable losses in penetrating French positions north of Courcy and north of the Aisne from which they were quickly driven. The enemy also lost heavily in attempts to advance south of Juvincourt and in the sector of Godat. A fifth German attack was repulsed in the Champagne, west of Mount Carnillet.

The artillery fire was rather heavy, the statement said, at some points in the fighting and the German attacks in the sector of Hurlus, and another enemy check east of Suippes, besides many violent artillery duels.

Belgian army headquarters reported an unusually violent enemy fire, consisting largely of gas shells and long-range projectiles, to which King Albert's gunners replied "energetically."

Alsace drives as a single movement, the Allies with ten days had captured over 400 guns and nearly 60,000 Germans.

On May 24 last the Italians assaulted the Austrians in the sector of six miles near Castagnavizza, east of the Brenner, and in four days took 24,000 prisoners. On October 4 the British took 5,000 men at Ypres on an eight-mile front in a single day.

On the first day of his famous "tank" offensive November 20 last General Foch striking over a twelve-mile front, penetrated the German positions west of Cambrai to a depth of five miles. The first two days of his movement he took 11,000 prisoners and 100 guns. The Germans in their counter offensive ten days later captured the same number of guns and a slightly smaller number of British.

Going back to the German Verdun offensive, the Crown Prince on February 21, 1916, launched his masses on a thirty-two-mile front. The Franco-Belgian Somme offensive was begun July 1, 1916, on a twenty-six-mile front. The present German effort seems roughly about twice as great as either the Verdun or Somme attacks, and the results should be proportionately greater.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Lacking reports of an official character beyond the communiques issued by the British government, American army officers to-night still were unable to formulate conclusive opinions as to the scope and nature of the German thrust against the British front in the Cambrai sector.

General Pershing is expected to transmit soon information handed on to him by the British staff. It is anticipated that a very complete summary of what transpired yesterday and of subsequent events along the British front will reach the War Department in this way and form a background of information upon which officials can measure the strength of the German movement for themselves.

As additional details came in the purpose of the German thrust against the British front was to strike a blow, or was designed to protect from possible Allied efforts the communication centres in the vicinity of Cambrai. No officer would hazard an opinion to-day as to the underlying motive of the German army commanders. All said the information thus far received was of too scattered a character to show conclusively the German operations at other points on the fifty-mile front involved are mere covering enterprises or are elements in a scheme of grand attack.

On the face of reports thus far seen officers were well satisfied with the display of resisting power made by the British troops. They are more than ever confident of the ability of General Haig's men not only to check the German onslaught within reasonable limits, but to hurl it back when its initial force has been expended. The promptness with which successful counter attacks were driven home by the British was noted as the unbroken spirit of the men after the terrific ordeal through which they had passed.

The hardest fighting yesterday in the northern battle was between the Canal du Nord and Croisilles. A heavy sun at midday to-day rendered observation possible.

The enemy made some progress at certain points. At others his troops have been thrown back by our counter-attacks."

A communication dealing with air activity said:

"This morning cleared, locally later, but at most places the weather was unsuitable for low flying. The enemy's attacks, however, and reinforcements on the battlefield offered excellent targets to the pilots of our low-flying machines, which poured many hundreds of rounds into them, causing innumerable casualties."

"Our bombing machines also attacked these targets, in addition to bombing important railway stations on the battlefield, over 100 bombs being dropped."

"A great deal of fighting occurred at low altitudes, in which sixteen hostile machines were downed and six driven down out of control. A hostile balloon was destroyed by one of our pilots. One of the enemy's low-flying airplanes was shot down in old lines by infantry. Three of our machines are missing."

"During the night, night-flying

German Plan Gun Every 12 Yards Along One Sector

BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 22 (P. M.).—The Germans to-day continued their assault against the positions in the Cambrai sector, notably in the region of Croisilles and Hargicourt. At least thirty divisions have been identified on the battle front. No such concentration of artillery has been seen since the war began.

On the southern battlefield a bitter struggle was waged to-day. The enemy had 1,000 guns in one small sector—one for every twelve yards. Severe fighting was proceeding this morning in the fighting and the German attacks in the sector of Hurlus, and another enemy check east of Suippes, besides many violent artillery duels.

Belgian army headquarters reported an unusually violent enemy fire, consisting largely of gas shells and long-range projectiles, to which King Albert's gunners replied "energetically."

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Battle Stained Americans Pass Baker in Review

Little Civilian in Derby Hat Stands by Big General as First Veterans of Great War Sweep By in Perfect Formation

By Wilbur Forrest

(Accredited to the Pershing Expeditionary Force)

(Tribune Cable Service)

WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IN FRANCE (Control American), March 20 (delayed).—A little civilian figure in a derby hat stood beside a big general in khaki to-day and for the first time reviewed American veterans of the great war.

The review took place on a plateau framed by woods and overlooking the famous Valley of the Marne. Overhead, low-flying grey clouds wept a little, and lumps came into the throats of more than one of the spectators as the soldiers swept by.

A picture unique in American history was presented—thousands of helmeted American soldiers, with the mud of foreign trenches still clinging to their clothing, and with well worn accoutrements of war, marching with confident swinging stride past the big general and the little civilian Secretary of War.

Ensuing months, perhaps years, may manifoldly repeat this ceremony. But those who have seen decimated French regiments pass in review after hellish battles around Craonne and Verdun, while even greater numbers of their comrades remained upon the battlefield, could not help saying: "Thank God."

Following the review Secretary Baker made a brief address before the troops on the parade ground. "You are the point of a wedge," he said, "the base of which is the American people. America is pounding to drive the wedge into the host of the enemy."

As the reviewing party came on to the plateau they found themselves facing the American troops, whose olive drab uniforms, blenched reddish with the background of winter-worn trees, for a full mile ahead upon the gently rolling surface of the plateau dense masses of American trench veterans stood rigidly at attention, awaiting the signal to right face and march past the spot where the two American war heads were stationed.

Forming in fours, company after company with "eyes right," passed in review at a double quick. For nearly an hour the thin line streamed briskly off the plateau and into the valley.

War Officer's Praise

An American commanding officer commented: "These are men who last July mostly shuffled their feet, stooped their shoulders and lagged and tottered under the heaviest march, 60 per cent raw recruits."

"Look at 'em now. Look at 'hat swing. It tells you what their morale is. They are the best of the best."

The historic value of the occasion was emphasized by the presence of the Marquis de Chambray, a colonel in the French army and one of the two French officers among the official reviewers. He is a direct descendant of the Lafayette who brought French aid to America and bears the name of the valley.

As the men swept past he said to me in a tense voice: "Wonderful! Magnificent!"

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Officers Vainly Urged Baker Not to Take Chance in Trenches

By Wilbur Forrest

WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY ARMY, CONTROLE AMERICAINE, March 19.—Secretary of War Baker's first experience in the trenches, where he remained an hour under fire and chatted with soldiers from Ohio, was conducted with secrecy that would have done credit to the greatest coups of Scotland Yard.

Mr. Baker at first was undecided whether he would take the risk, but suddenly decided what was a dangerous duty for American soldiers was also the duty of the Secretary of War. General Pershing and his entire staff vainly attempted to dissuade him, but when Mr. Baker's determination was seen to be firm a staff colonel of similar shape and contour to the Secretary offered the free use of his wardrobe.

Baker and Escorts Disappear

On Sunday night a colonel and Mr. Baker, also an officer known to America as a famous war correspondent and writer of magazine articles and books, mysteriously disappeared from headquarters, motored to a small village in the night, and were not seen again until they returned to the front line.

In the first sector visited some of the officers commanding the sector declined responsibility for the Secretary's risking his life, though Mr. Baker was anxious to do so. The party therefore motored to another sector, where in the darkness Mr. Baker, with a dissonant general as guide, and the officer correspondent entered the first line.

Meanwhile a squad of anxious war correspondents, who were waiting for word to accompany Mr. Baker, cooled their heels in a village many miles away. Hours later the officer correspondent returned with the story, led the correspondents to the trench, and the thrilling details, including the Secretary's first emotions as he looked over the parapet into No Man's Land and said: "Now I am on the frontier of freedom."

Ralph Hayes, Mr. Baker's secretary, and the staff officers, with the possible exception of Mr. Pershing, were ignorant of Mr. Baker's itinerary. Once only during the day did Mr. Baker surrender his derby hat, which incidentally is known to be the first hat of the kind on the front. This was when he wore a tin hat and gas mask into the first line.

Throughout the long hours of the afternoon the Secretary's figure, in derby, raincoat and high boots, was seen at many places in the American war area. The itinerary of his mission was religiously withheld from correspondents, but at half a dozen points correspondents, like sleuths, singly or in pairs or trios, were found waiting at the doorways of officers' quarters, canteens, hospitals and elsewhere.

At one hospital, where Captain Archie Roosevelt was recovering from his wounds three correspondents vainly attempted to interview the war nurse after Mr. Baker had visited Captain Roosevelt's ward. The nurse, after a careful cross-examination, explained that she had been turned away from the ward in the further end of the ward and saw or heard nothing.

Having thus elicited that Captain Roosevelt had one hand unwounded with which to shake hands, the correspondents felt repaid for twenty hours of sleuthing. The stern, middle-aged nurse gave this parting shot to the reporters:

"But you saw and heard nothing."

"Saw and heard nothing," echoed behind the retreating correspondents.

General Pershing did not accompany Secretary Baker to the trench, being ill from the effects of strenuous and long days on the line of communication. Secretary Baker's seventeen-hour day Tuesday will be followed by several equally long and probably equally secret days before he leaves France for other portions of Europe en route for Washington.

Casualties Among Our Fighting Men Abroad

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Sixty-two names appear on to-day's list of casualties among the American expeditionary forces, including two men killed in action and thirteen missing in action. Fifteen died of disease, one was killed by accident, one died of wounds, nine were severely wounded and twenty-one slightly wounded.

The Navy Department reported that sixteen lives had been lost in the collision of the destroyer Manley and a British war vessel.

Killed in Action

FALL, Henry H., corporal (previously reported wounded).

GROSS, Richard, private.

Died of Accident

SULLIVAN, Sylvester P., private.

Died of Wounds

GROCHOWSKI, Bohdan, private.

Died of Disease

BROWN, Herman, private, meningitis.

BOGGS, Charles E., private, pneumonia.

BILLHART, Ryland E., private, pneumonia.

HARTMAN, Allen K., private, pneumonia.

ISRAEL, Alfred H., corporal, pneumonia.

PERKINS, Robert, private, pneumonia.

MELHINNEY, Michael L., sergeant, pneumonia.

MICHELSON, Milton L., private, pneumonia.

OYENS, Walter H., private, meningitis.

PERKINS, Henry, private, pneumonia.

RENAUD, Alfred J., corporal, pneumonia.

ROBBINS, William T., private, pneumonia.

SMITH, Robert, private, pneumonia.

SPEARS, Elmer, private, heart disease.

THIMBLE, John, private, tuberculosis.

Summary of Casualties to Date

Deaths.	Previously reported.	Reported March 22.	Total.
Killed in action.	202	3	205
Killed by accident.	149	1	150
Died of disease.	700	15	715
Lost at sea.	237	16	253
Died of other causes.	40	0	40
Total deaths.	1,328	35	1,363
Wounded.	631	30	661
Captured.	21	0	21
Missing.	25	13	38
Totals.	2,005	78	2,083

Missing in Action

RACKUS, Rudolf M., private.

CARPENTER, William O., private.

DOUGHERTY, Barney, private.

HANSEN, Marcus, private.

LARSEN, Hans, private.

ISRAEL, Adolph, private.

O'NEIL, Hugh, private.

PAYNE, John J., corporal.

PETERS, Samuel J., private.

ROLLMAN, Hector E., private.

STONINA, Joseph, sergeant.

STUCKER, Edward E., corporal.

TARACKA, John, private.

Severely Wounded

GOOS, Harry W., lieutenant.

Anderson, Carl, private.

ARAZNY, Stanley, private.

GONDOL, Simon, private.

GRUBER, George, private.

LEPOFSKY, Abraham, private.

MORRISON, Oliver W., private.

O'DONNELL, James J., private.

STICKLER, Harry G., corporal.

Slightly Wounded

PICKETT, Lee Morgan, lieutenant.

ROBERTS, Charles Glenn, lieutenant.

Beatrice, Salvatore E., private.

BIELINSKI, Edmund, private.

HUSSON, Frank E., mechanic.

CAIN, Charles, private.

EMERSON, Leslie S., private.

OSTER, Robert, private.

GLASS, Basil, private.

GOULD, Frederick W., private.

HEATH, Robert, private.

HOLMES, Oliver W., private.

HUGHES, Kenneth V., sergeant.

KASINER, Earl E., private.

LAUVICHOIE, George, chief mechanic.

PARLOW, Elmer J., corporal.

PEARSON, Mike, private.			
TYMCHECK, Michael, private.			
WINSTON, Louis, sergeant.			
YATES, Fred S., private.			

British Air Raids Terrorize Germans

Residents Flee as Mannheim Is Badly Damaged

GENEVA, March 22.—Information has reached Basel that the British aerial attack of Monday upon Mannheim, Germany, did enormous damage in the city, causing several fires, which raged for many hours, especially in the vicinity of the railway station.

A powder factory and a gas plant are reported to have exploded. The population, according to these reports, is fleeing town and going to Switzerland, especially women and children.

The South German press is continuing its campaign against aerial raiding, but the Berlin government is declared to show no disposition to negotiate.

Official Statements

West

FRENCH

PARIS, Thursday, March 21 (NIGHT).—During the day the German artillery kept up a very violent bombardment between the Miette and the Aisne, in the whole Rheims region and on the Champagne front, especially between the region of the heights and Villers-Tourterre. Our batteries everywhere replied energetically.

In the sector of Harbais the Germans made three successive attacks. They were either repulsed by our fire or driven back by our counter-attacks. East of Sauppes German raids were completely checked. Our artillery with its fire and dispersed enemy columns which were advancing in the region south of Montbailly. On the right bank of the Meuse and at some points in the Woëvre our first line positions were bombarded rather heavily.

PARIS, March 22 (DAY).—French troops repulsed strong German raids south of Arras, in the sector of Godat, north of Courcy and north of the Aisne. In the two last named regions German detachments were driven from advanced French positions after lively fighting. The enemy suffered considerable losses.

In the Champagne, west of Mount Carnillet, a German attack was repulsed. There were rather heavy artillery encounters in the region of the heights, at some points on the right bank of the Meuse and in the Woëvre.

It has been established that on March 5 Lieutenant Hecan brought down his tenth German airplane.

(NIGHT).—Great activity by the artillery early to-day became most violent this afternoon at divers points north of Chemin-des-Dames, in the region of Courcy and Pont-

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PARIS, Thursday, March 21 (NIGHT).—During the day the German artillery kept up a very violent bombardment between the Miette and the Aisne, in the whole Rheims region and on the Champagne front, especially between the region of the heights and Villers-Tourterre. Our batteries everywhere replied energetically.

In the sector of Harbais the Germans made three successive attacks. They were either repulsed by our fire or driven back by our counter-attacks. East of Sauppes German raids were completely checked. Our artillery with its fire and dispersed enemy columns which were advancing in the region south of Montbailly. On the right bank of the Meuse and at some points in the Woëvre our first line positions were bombarded rather heavily.

PARIS, March 22 (DAY).—French troops repulsed strong German raids south of Arras, in the sector of Godat, north of Courcy and north of the Aisne. In the two last named regions German detachments were driven from advanced French positions after lively fighting. The enemy suffered considerable losses.

In the Champagne, west of Mount Carnillet, a German attack was repulsed. There were rather heavy artillery encounters in the region of the heights, at some points on the right bank of the Meuse and in the Woëvre.

It has been established that on March 5 Lieutenant Hecan brought down his tenth German airplane.

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